

6 February 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Training

25X1A9a

FROM : [REDACTED] OTR/IS/OBF

SUBJECT : Report on Vietnam Area Course #4-69

1. Basic Data

The first full calendar year of the operation of the Vietnam Area Course ended 2-6 December with the running of V.A.C. #4-69, the 8th in the series. This session, run at Headquarters, was completed by 39 persons, and was conducted without hitch or problem.

2. Speakers25X1A9a
25X1A9a

Some form of the flu hit the speaker's roster and caused the cancellation of [REDACTED] lecture and the replacement of [REDACTED] and of the Pentagon's Colonel Dexter by his colleague, Colonel George Benson.

Because of TDY abroad, [REDACTED] was not on hand for the final talk on "The Role of the Agency in Vietnam." Since no one else in Vietnam Operations was available, I delivered the talk, plagiarizing heavily from the almost countless presentations I've heard on this subject.

25X1A9a

25X1A9a
25X1A9a

The panelists for the 3 December discussion of "Working with the Vietnamese" were [REDACTED] (OTR), [REDACTED] (FE) and [REDACTED] (EUR). I cannot say that it was an effective panel, and this comment applies to a few other occasions when I have tried this technique and subject. People can recount experiences and tell anecdotes, but an 18-months' tour is probably an inadequate experiential base for the formulation of generalizations on Vietnamese behavior.

25X1A9a

3. Critiques

Of 39 students, 37 were present for the writing of critiques. Among the more interesting comments, which I pass on without any attempt to explain or rebut are these:

-2-

(The speakers) "all seemed to give a very dim if not pro-N.V.N. outlook on some subject (sic)."

"I've taken this course twice now and feel that the addition of a presentation by a military officer was certainly a plus."

"I felt that the CIA speakers were dull as opposed to the outside speakers and wish there could have been more visitors (they would be worth the additional money)."

"The availability of the course should be more greatly publicized."

4. Concluding Observation

After the TET offensive in January, speakers in the V.A.C. expressed so much pessimism about the situation in Vietnam that by the third day of the course, students gave vent to their own feelings of surprise and dismay. This situation persisted throughout the spring and summer sessions. Hence I found it interesting to note in this December class that there was no word of this dismay expressed in class. The reason, of course, is that the Allied mood in Vietnam in recent months has been increasingly confident and optimistic even though such is not the mood back in the United States.

[REDACTED]

25X1A9a

Course Chairman

[REDACTED]

25X1A9a

Chief, Intelligence School

Attachments